RBI Report regarding food stock

3615. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to the RBI report surplus food stock is the harbinger of inflation and high interest rates; and

(b) if so, the remedies proposed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The RBI has in its Annual Report of 2001-02 suggested a multi-pronged approach with a combination of measures to reduce the surplus stocks of foodgrains. The measures suggested include orderly disposal of stocks, MSP adjustment, and a long term strategy of diversification in the main surplus foodgrain growing areas.

Committee on foodgrains policy

†3616. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the high level Committee on long term foodgrains policy has submitted its report;

(b) if so, whether said report has been implemented;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Committee's recommendations carry wide ramifications, requiring consultation with the concerned Ministries/ Departments and with the State Governments which are currently in progress.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.